

Appl. No. : **10/757,638**
Filed : **January 13, 2004**

REMARKS

With this amendment, Claims 1-7 and 9-10 are pending in the above-referenced application. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended, and Claims 2 and 11-20 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to Claim 9 because of certain informalities. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the "monitoring of rate of deposition of the platinum precursor gas" relationship with "the monitoring the rate of the deposition of the platinum layer" in claim 8 is unclear. By this amendment, Applicant has made appropriate corrections to Claim 9 to further clarify the "monitoring" limitation. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this objection.

Claim Rejections --35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner also rejected Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,130,172 to Hicks. The Examiner also rejected Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,783,716 to Baum. The Examiner objected to Claims 8-10, however indicated that these claims may be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

While the Examiner respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's conclusions, Applicant has amended Claim 1 so that it now incorporates all the limitations of Claim 8 in the interest of expediting prosecution of this application. Applicant has further amended Claim 9 so that it now depends from Claim 1. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any impediment to the prompt allowance of this application that could be resolved through a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the number shown below.


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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 10/29/2004

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